



**Hilton Head Island**  
Bluffton and the Lowcountry

# Innovation and Inspiration

The Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra enriches island residents and visitors with outstanding music and programs.

**C**elebrating its 30th season, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra is a leader in the arts and cultural life of the Lowcountry.

The fully professional orchestra annually hosts guest artists from around the globe and a world-renowned international piano competition. The symphony orchestra is one of the region's major cultural organizations dedicated to providing classical music and supporting the musical arts in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The HHSO celebrates its 30th anniversary this year offering a full season from October to May of nine Masterworks and Light Classics concerts. The orchestra also offers Pops performances including the traditional Symphony Under the Stars and the new Picnic & Pops summer concerts.

In 1995, the symphony introduced a piano competition which grew from a one-day event to an eight-day competition of four rounds. The Hilton Head International Piano Competition (HHIPC), under the auspices of the HHSO, serves as a showcase for talented young pianists and provides a gift for the community and visitors. Along with a prize package of \$35,000, the competition offers the first-place

winner an opportunity to perform in recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall in New York City and to return to perform with the HHSO. Today more than 4,000 people from 45 states and 12 countries attend the event. Earlier this year, the HHIPC held its inaugural competition for Young Artists ages 13–17. This competition will be held in the odd-numbered years, while the HHIPC for pianists ages 18–30 will be offered in the even-numbered years.

One of the orchestra's strongest commitments is to provide musical education to the community's youth. The Hilton Head Young Artist Programs provide training, performance



PHOTO BY HILTON HEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



opportunities, and music scholarships to talented, committed students. These include performances by students in small ensembles and as soloists. The programs also provide

**“The level of the Orchestra’s performance is extremely high — particularly for a community of this size...”**

—Henry Fogel, former president and CEO  
League of American Orchestras

side-by-side opportunities with HHSO musicians. And each year, the orchestra sponsors the Youth Concerto Competition featuring finalists from throughout the Southeast, many of whom are later offered the opportunity to perform with the HHSO. Other educational programs include partnerships with local schools and the local Boys and Girls Club.

Hilton Head thrives in the arts and culture, and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra is a major contributor to the quality of life in the island community.

**Above: sixty-five musicians play a varied repertoire. Below: Picnic & Pops summer program. Opposite page: 2005 HHIPC Winner Di Wu**

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For more details on the symphony and upcoming events, visit [hhs.org](http://hhs.org).